

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /105 W

----- 047963

R 240636Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3382

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3081

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD KU

SUBJECT: EXPORT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS:
KUWAIT

REF: STATE 146681

1. IN GENERAL KUWAIT FOLLOWS FREE TRADE POLICY, AND THERE NO RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS. A FEW COMMODITIES ARE SUBJECT TO EXPORT PROHIBITION OR LICENSING MAINLY TO ENSURE ADEQUATE DOMESTIC SUPPLIES. EXPORTS OF LIVE SHEEP (SIC 5154), POULTRY (20160), AND CERTAIN OTHER ITEMS SUCH AS SUGAR (2062), RICE (2044), MEAT (2013) AND CHEESE (20220) AS WELL AS SOME OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MAY BE LICENSED IN LIMITED QUANTITIES (BY MINISTRY COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY) OR PROHIBITED IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY OR SHORTAGES IN KUWAIT. EXPORTS OF ARMS (3482), AMMUNITION (3483) AND SCRAP METAL REQUIRE LICENSES. ALL EXPORTS TO ISRAEL, RHODESIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA ARE PROHIBITED. THIS HAD ALSO BEEN TRUE WITH RESPECT TO PORTUGAL, BUT RECENTLY GOK HAS TAKEN STEPS TO ALLOW EXPORTS TO PORTUGAL. KUWAIT PARTICIPATED IN ARAB BOYCOTT OF PETROLEUM EXPORTS TO US AND NETHERLANDS WHICH BEGAN OCTOBER 17, 1973 AND ENDED IN SPRING 1974.

2. IN CASES OF FOOD AND COMMODITY EXPORT RESTRICTIONS, GOK HAS
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BEEN ATTEMPTING MAINTAIN DOMESTIC SUPPLIES PRIMARILY OF IMPORTANT

CONSUMER GOODS WHICH ALSO RELATED TO GOVERNMENT EFFORTS COMBAT INFLATION. RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS TO ISRAEL, RHODESIA, PORTUGAL AND SOUTH AFRICA HAVE BEEN IN CONNECTION WITH ARAB, UN OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE IN RESPONSE TO POLITICAL PROBLEMS. ARAB OIL BOYCOTT OF US AND NETHERLANDS ESSENTIALLY ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SAME PHENOMENON. IN GENERAL KUWAITI EXPORT RESTRICTIONS HAVE HAD MINIMAL IMPACT ON WORLD TRADE, AND THEY ARE NOT PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT EVEN IN TERMS KUWAITI INTERNATIONAL TRADE. OIL BOYCOTT DID, OF COURSE, HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON WORLD TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. IN THAT CONNECTION, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE NOTED KUWAIT RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT SUPPLIER OF PETROLEUM TO US. AT TIME BOYCOTT INSTITUTED ABOUT 2 PERCENT OF CRUDE PRODUCTION (WHICH WAS AROUND 3.2 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY) WENT TO US. BOYCOTT WAS MORE SIGNIFICANT IN NETHERLANDS WHICH IMPORTED ABOUT 11 PERCENT KUWAITI CRUDE.
STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORT CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUWAIT03081
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750255-0295
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750726/aaaaaxdf.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 146681
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPORT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS: KUWAIT
TAGS: ETRD, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006